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(54) Title: **CARIES RISK TEST FOR PREDICTING AND ASSESSING THE RISK OF DISEASE**

(57) Abstract: Provided are methods, test devices, and diagnostic kits for predicting, assessing, and diagnosing the risk of a disease using salivary analysis. The method comprises providing a whole (unfractionated) saliva sample from a subject; contacting an aliquot of said saliva with one or more lectins under conditions that allow said one or more lectins to bind to a lectin-binding component of said saliva; detecting the amount of bound lectin; and comparing the amount of bound lectin to the amount known to bind a saliva sample from a control patient, to predict the risk of a disease in the subject. Also provided are methods for reducing the risk of a disease and a method for assessing the risk of the disease at a defined level.

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